

Appln. No.: 09/997,391
Amendment Dated September 12, 2007
Reply to Office Action of July 11, 2007

MATP-617US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: 09/997,391
Applicant: Saiprasad V. Naimpally
Filed: November 30, 2001
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUDIO NAVIGATION OF
AN INFORMATION APPLICANCE
TC/A.U.: 2626
Examiner: James S. Wozniak
Confirmation No.: 5564
Docket No.: MATP-617US

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated July 11, 2007, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- ☐ **Amendments to the Specification** begin on page of this paper.
- ☒ **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- ☐ **Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet(s).
- ☐ **Amendments to the Abstract** are on page of this paper. A clean version of the Abstract is on page of this paper.
- ☒ **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~providing~~requesting information electronic program guide (EPG) data which have been converted to EPG speech files using an information appliance coupled to a server at a location remote from the information appliance, comprising the steps of:

~~(a) — storing electronic program guide (EPG) data in a database at the remote location;~~

~~(b) — converting, at the remote location, the EPG data stored in step (a) into EPG speech files and storing the converted EPG speech files;~~

~~(c)(a) receiving a request for~~requesting a portion of the converted EPG speech files converted in step (b), the portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to a particular time interval, the portion including a plurality of sections each section representing a respectively different sub-intervalsinterval of the portion of the EPG speech files;

~~(d) — retrieving the requested portion from the stored converted EPG speech files and transmitting to the information appliance the portion of the EPG speech files requested in step (c);~~

~~(e)(b) receiving and storing the portion of the converted EPG speech files in the information appliance transmitted in step (d);~~

~~(f)(c) presenting a sequence of aural prompts to a user, prompting the user to select time information corresponding to a one section of the plurality of sections of the stored portion of EPG data speech files to be extracted, the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a respectively different channel;~~

~~(g)~~(d) navigating through the stored portion of EPG speech files in the information appliance, responsive to the aural prompts, to extract ~~a~~the one section of the plurality of sections of the stored portion of EPG speech files; and

~~(h)~~(e) presenting the extracted section of the stored portion of EPG speech files extracted in step ~~(g)~~(d) through audio speakers.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method of providing information using an information appliance coupled to a server at a location remote from the information appliance, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing electronic program guide (EPG) text files in a database at the remote location;

(b) converting, at the remote location, the EPG text files stored in step (a) into EPG speech files and storing the converted EPG speech files;

(c) receiving a request for a portion of the EPG speech files converted in step (b) and a request for the EPG text files;

(d) retrieving the requested portion from the stored converted EPG speech files and transmitting to the information appliance the portion of the EPG speech files requested in step (c);

(e) receiving and storing the EPG speech files in the information appliance transmitted in step (d);

(f) presenting a sequence of aural prompts;

(g) navigating through the stored speech files in the information appliance, responsive to the aural prompts, to extract a section of the stored speech files;

(h) reformatting the EPG text files into a page of text and presenting the page of text on a television monitor;

(i) receiving an indication of a location on the page of text corresponding to the extracted section of the stored speech files; and

(j) transmitting, from the remote location to the information appliance, a further portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to the received location indication.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 in which the page of text includes at least one date, multiple channels, multiple times and at least one legend inserted in a grid; and

step (d) includes transmitting speech files of the at least one date, multiple channels and multiple times;

step (i) includes receiving an indication of a location in the grid; and

step (j) includes separately transmitting speech files of the legend in the grid location indicated in step (i).

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which step ~~(a)-(b)~~ includes ~~converting-requesting a portion of the EPG data that has been converted~~ into the EPG speech files using a first text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer and a second TTS synthesizer, whereby the first TTS synthesizer and the second TTS synthesizer use different languages.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which step ~~(b)(a)~~ includes ~~requesting a portion of receiving a selection of one of multiple voice personalities, and converting the EPG data that has been converted~~ into the EPG speech files using ~~the a selected voice personality from one of multiple voice personalities~~.

7.-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 including

~~(i)~~(f) presenting set-up configurations sequentially through the audio speaker;

~~(j)~~(g) pausing the audio presented in step (i) between each set-up configuration; and

~~(k)~~(h) waiting a predetermined time period during each pause to receive an input command.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which ~~step (d) includes transmitting to the information appliance the portion of the EPG speech files at a periodic interval of time, and~~

step ~~(e)~~(b) includes receiving the portion of converted EPG speech files at a periodic interval of time and storing the transmitted portion of the converted EPG speech files in a memory device of the information appliance.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~providing requesting~~ electronic program guide (EPG) information-text data which have been converted to EPG audio data using a communications network, comprising the steps of:

~~(a)~~—~~storing EPG text data in a server;~~

~~(b)~~—~~converting the EPG text data into EPG audio data and storing the EPG audio data at the server;~~

~~(c)~~(a) receiving a request for requesting a portion of the converted EPG audio data corresponding to a particular time interval, the portion including a plurality of sections each representing a respectively different sub-intervalsinterval of the portion of EPG audio data converted in step (b);

~~{d}~~—transmitting the portion of the stored EPG audio data received in step ~~{c}~~ and the EPG text data through the network;

~~{e}{b}~~ receiving from the network, by a set top box (STB), at least the portion of the converted EPG audio data ~~transmitted in step {d}~~;

~~{f}{c}~~ storing, by the STB, the at least the portion of the converted EPG audio data received in step ~~{e}{b}~~;

~~{g}{d}~~ presenting a sequence of aural prompts to a user, prompting the user to select time information corresponding to a one section of the plurality of sections of the stored EPG data to be extracted, the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a respectively different channel;

~~{h}{e}~~ ~~entering~~receiving commands responsive to the sequence of aural prompts;

~~{i}{f}~~ processing ~~a the~~ section of the EPG audio data ~~stored in step {f} in the~~ STB, responsive to the commands entered in step ~~{h}{e}~~; and

~~{j}{g}~~ presenting the time information in the section of the EPG audio data processed in step ~~{i}{f}~~ through an audio speaker.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 in which step ~~{e}{b}~~ includes receiving the EPG audio data at periodic time intervals.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 in which step ~~{j}{g}~~ includes presenting the EPG audio data by announcing at least a channel, a time, and a legend corresponding to the channel and time;

pausing the announcement through the audio speakers; and

presenting by announcing at least another channel, time, and legend immediately after pausing the announcement.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 in which step (g) includes presenting the EPG audio data by announcing at least a channel; and the method including the following additional step:

~~(k)-(h)~~ selecting the channel for one of listening and viewing.

15. (Currently Amended) An audio enabled data service system, including an information appliance comprising:

a memory device;

a modem adapted to connect to a network;

a processor coupled to the modem for (a) communicating on the network, (b) periodically receiving portions of electronic program guide (EPG) speech files from the network, each portion corresponding to a respectively different time interval and each portion including a plurality of sections each representing a respectively different sub-interval of the respective portion (c) storing the portion of EPG speech files in the memory device and (d) providing a sequence of aural navigation prompts to a user, prompting the user to select time information corresponding to a one section of the plurality of sections of the stored portion of EPG data speech files to be extracted, the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a respectively different channel;

a receiver for accepting input commands from a remote control, the input commands entered responsive to the sequence of aural navigation prompts;

an audio speaker configured with the processor to present the sequence of aural navigation prompts; and

the processor responsive to the input commands accepted by the receiver for (a) extracting a one section of the plurality of sections of the portion of the EPG speech files stored in the memory device and (b) sending the extracted portion-section of the portion of EPG

speech files to the audio speaker; ~~the portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to a particular time interval.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The audio enabled data service system of claim 15 including

a server coupled to the network;

wherein the server includes a storage device for storing the portions of EPG data, a text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer for converting the portions of EPG data into the EPG speech files, and a transmitter for transmitting the portions of EPG data and the EPG speech files onto the network.

17. (Previously Presented) An audio enabled data service system comprising:

a television monitor; and

an information appliance comprising:

a memory device,

a modem adapted to connect to a network,

a processor coupled to the modem for (a) communicating on the network, (b) periodically receiving electronic program guide (EPG) speech files and EPG text files from the network, (c) storing the EPG speech files in the memory device and (d) providing a sequence of aural navigation prompts,

a receiver for accepting input commands from a remote control, the input commands entered responsive to the sequence of aural navigation prompts, and

an audio speaker configured with the processor to present the sequence of aural navigation prompts,

the processor is responsive to the input commands accepted by the receiver for (a) extracting a portion of the EPG speech files stored in the memory device and (b) sending the extracted portion of the EPG speech files to the audio speaker,

wherein:

the processor formats the EPG text files into a page of text and the processor provides the page for display on the television monitor,

the receiver accepts an input command which provides an identifier for identifying a location on the page displayed on the television monitor, and

the processor, in response to the identifier, extracts a further portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to the identified location on the page, and sends the corresponding further portion of the EPG speech files to the audio speaker.

18. (Previously Presented) The audio enabled data service system of claim 17 wherein the page includes at least one date, multiple channels, multiple times, and at least one legend inserted in a grid;

the identifier identifies the grid on the page; and

the further portion of the EPG speech files extracted by the processor includes the legend inserted in the grid.

19. (Previously Presented) The audio enabled data service system of claim 18 further including a server coupled to the network,

wherein the server includes a storage device for storing the (EPG) text files, a text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer for converting the EPG text files into the EPG speech files, and a transmitter for transmitting the EPG text files and the EPG speech files onto the network,

the processor receives the EPG speech files in response to a download request from the server; and

the download request includes a first download request for the at least one date, multiple channels and multiple times, and a second download request for the legend inserted in the grid.

20. (Original) The audio enabled data service system of claim 16 wherein the TTS synthesizer includes a synthesizer using one of a first language and a second language, whereby the first language is different from the second language.

21. (Currently Amended) The audio enabled data service system of claim 16 wherein the TTS synthesizer includes multiple voice personalities for converting the portions of EPG data into EPG speech files; and

the TTS synthesizer selects one of the multiple voice personalities, in response to an input command from the remote control.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which step ~~(f)~~(c) further includes presenting a sequence of prompts in text form corresponding to the sequence of aural prompts.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 in which step ~~(g)~~(d) further includes presenting a sequence of prompts in text form corresponding to the sequence of aural prompts.

24. (Previously Presented) The audio enabled data service system of claim 17 wherein the processor provides a sequence of prompts in text form corresponding to the sequence of aural navigation prompts for display on the television monitor.

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3-6 and 9-24 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 2 and 7-8 have been cancelled.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

With regard to claim 15, Chang does not disclose or suggest,

... periodically receiving portions of electronic program guide (EPG) speech files from the network, each portion corresponding to a respectively different time interval and each portion including a plurality of sections each representing a respectively different sub-interval of the respective portion...

...providing a sequence of aural navigation prompts to a user, prompting the user to **select time information corresponding to one section of the plurality of sections** of the stored portion of EPG speech files to be extracted, **the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a respectively different channel...** (Emphasis added).

Basis for this amendment may be found, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0042].

The Examiner asserts that Chang discloses that the user is prompted before EPG data is extracted. (Office Action, page 3, lines 1-3). The EPG data shown at Fig. 4 of Chang includes a plurality of programs each corresponding to a different channel (i.e. CH 02 Dr. Quinn, Ch 03 Rosanne...). The EPG data shown at Fig. 5 of Chang includes a plurality of programs on different channels (i.e. 08:00 Dr. Quinn, 09:00 Dazzle...). This EPG data shown at Figs. 4 or 5 is extracted and displayed to the user. The user is then prompted to select a program from the plurality of programs shown in the display at Figs. 4 or 5. After the user selects the program, however, the additional EPG data that is extracted provides information for the selected **single program on a single channel** (i.e. EPG data for Dr. Quinn on Ch 02), as shown in Fig. 3. That is, the EPG data to be extracted in Chang does not include "...a plurality of programs, each program associated with a respectively different channel," as recited in claim 15.

In contrast, Applicants' exemplary embodiment prompts the user to select time information and then extract EPG speech files which include **a plurality of programs that are associated with different channels**. For example, the information appliance (i.e. a set top box) may "...periodically receive portions of electronic program guide (EPG) speech files from

the network..." Each portion may include scheduled TV programs for the next respective day. (Para. [0041]). Thus, each portion may "correspond to respectively different time intervals.

Each portion may also include a "...plurality of sections each representing a respectively different sub-interval of the respective portion..." For, example, the plurality of sections may correspond to different time intervals for the next day's programs. The user may then be prompted for the current time. After the user selects the current time (i.e. 10:00 p.m.), EPG speech files are extracted which include **a plurality of programs on different channels** (i.e. Channel 2-CNN Larry King Live, Channel 3-Fox Baseball, Red Sox vs. Yankees, Channel 4...). (Para. [0042]). Thus, Applicants' exemplary embodiment includes "prompting the user to select time information corresponding to one section of the plurality of sections of the stored portion of EPG speech files to be extracted, **"...the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a different channel,"** as recited in claim 15.

Because Chang does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 15, claim 15 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Chang.

Claims 1, 10-14, 16, and 22-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Chang and Hong et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection. Chang is described above. Hong et al. is described in the previous response. Hong et al. also do not disclose or suggest "...prompting the user to select time information corresponding to one section of the plurality of sections of the stored EPG data to be extracted, **the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a different channel,"** as recited in claim 15.

Claims 1 and 11, while not identical to claim 15, include features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 15. Thus, claims 1 and 11 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Chang and Hong et al. for at least the same reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 15. Claims 10 and 22 depend from claim 1, claims 12-14 and 23 depend from claim 11 and claim 16 depends from claim 15. Accordingly, claims 10, 12-14, 16 and 22-23 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chang and Hong et al.

Claims 5 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Chang, Hong et al. and Oh. Chang and Hong et al. are described above. Oh is described in

the previous response. Oh also does not disclose or suggest "...prompting the user to select time information corresponding to one section of the plurality of sections of the stored EPG data to be extracted, **the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a different channel,**" as recited in claims 1 and 15.

Because Chang, Hong et al. and Oh do not disclose or suggest the features of claims 1 and 15, claims 1 and 15 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chang, Hong et al. and Oh. Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and claim 20 depends from claim 15. Accordingly, claims 5 and 20 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chang, Hong et al. and Oh.

Claims 6 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Chang, Hong et al. and Van Kommer. Chang and Hong et al. are described above. Van Kommer is described in the previous response. Van Kommer also does not disclose or suggest "...prompting the user to select time information corresponding to one section of the plurality of sections of the stored EPG data to be extracted, **the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a different channel,**" as recited in claims 1 and 15.

Because Chang, Hong et al. and Van Kommer do not disclose or suggest the features of claims 1 and 15, claims 1 and 15 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chang, Hong et al. and Van Kommer. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and claim 21 depends from claim 15. Accordingly, claims 6 and 21 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chang, Hong et al. and Van Kommer.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Chang, Hong et al. and Cannon et al. Chang and Hong et al. are described above. Cannon et al. is described in the previous response. Cannon et al. also does not disclose or suggest "...prompting the user to select time information corresponding to one section of the plurality of sections of the stored EPG data to be extracted, **the one section including a plurality of programs, each program associated with a different channel,**" as recited in claim 1.

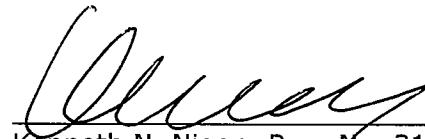
Because Chang, Hong et al. and Cannon et al. do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chang, Hong et

al. and Cannon et al. Claim 9 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 9 is also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chang, Hong et al. and Cannon et al.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 3-4, 17-19 and 24 are allowable over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 5-6, 9-16, and 20-23.

Respectfully submitted,



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KNN/pb

Dated: September 12, 2007